Equal Rights

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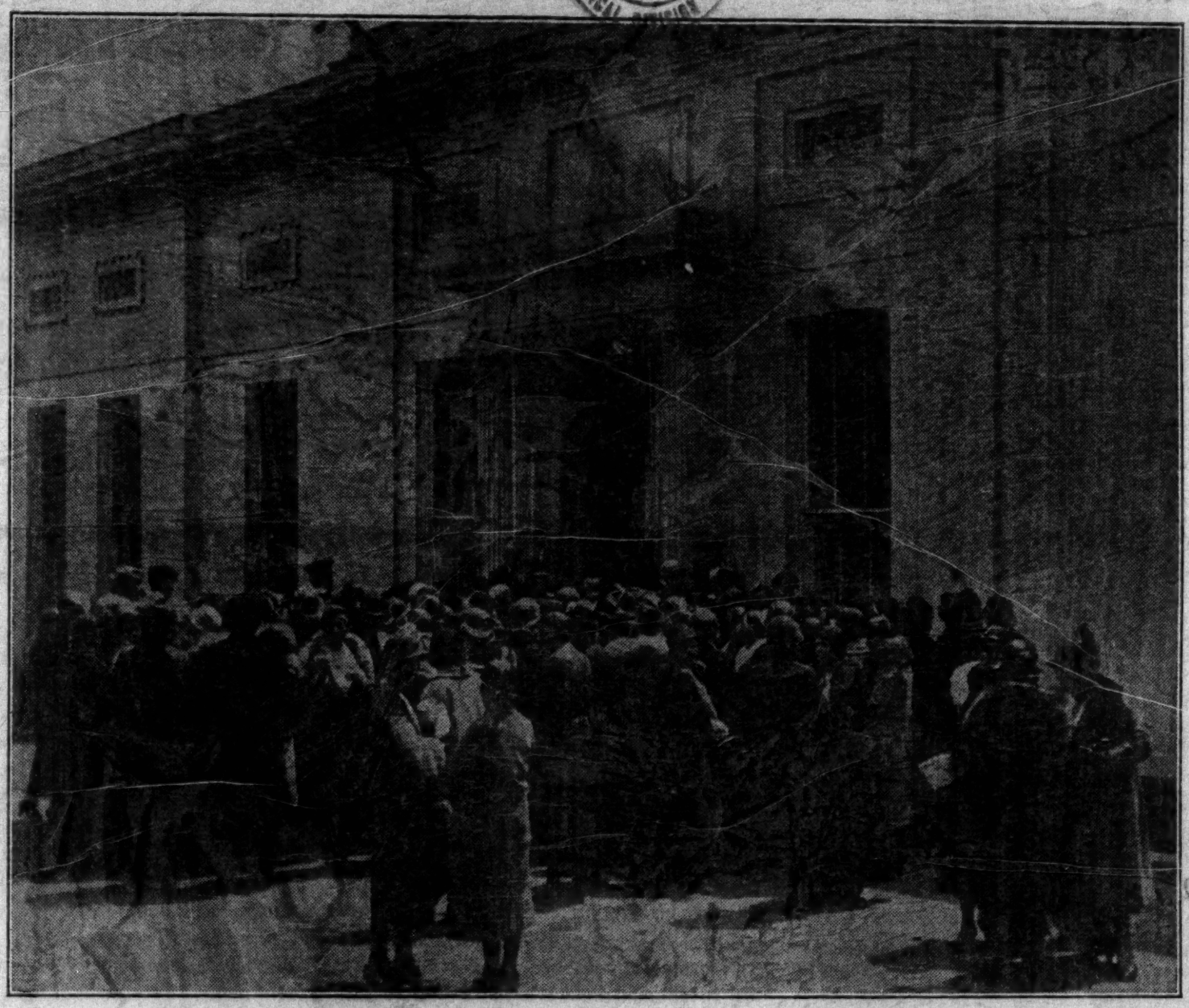

Women Petition President Hoover

Part of the deputation of three hundred women that urged President Hoover to support the equality reservation to United States entrance to the World Court, sponsored by the National Woman's Party, and providing that the code of law to be administered by the Court shall not contain inequalities based on sex.

Equal Rights

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 52]
[House Joint Resolution Number 55]
Introduced in the Senate June 4, 1929, by SENATOR GERALD P. NYE, North Dakota.
Introduced in the House January 11, 1932, by REPRESENTATIVE LOUIS LUDLOW, Indiana.

Support the Equal Rights Planks

THE Woman's Party has never gone to a national political convention with so much assurance of co-operation on the part of the delegates as at this time. It is a measure of the success of the work so far—at previous conventions, in the National Capital and over the country—that a foundation of understanding and a friendly attitude toward the Equal Rights movement does exist.

The plank suggested by the Woman's Party for inclusion in the national platforms of both the Republican and Democratic parties reads as follows:

The Republican (or Democratic) Party stands for Equal Rights between men and women. It therefore endorses the proposed amendment to the Federal Constitution:

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

All indications are that the Equal Rights plank will receive favorable consideration from both parties. But favorable consideration is not enough—we must have decisive, vigorous support from every State Branch if the planks are to be nailed firmly into the platforms. Certainly, the economic depression, with its consequent attempt to push women out of the industrial world, has made women themselves realize as never before the necessity of having their equal status guaranteed by the Constitution.

Increased tension, a deepening sense of insecurity, a realization that women are in many instances living merely on sufferance in the modern world—a sufferance that may at any moment be withdrawn—has brought thousands of new recruits to the Woman's Party in the past twelve months.

This year is the centenary of national conventions for the nomination of Presidential candidates, 1832-1932. It is a long time; too long a time for inequality to endure. Women demand that this year, by the inclusion of an Equal Rights plank, both parties initiate a new century of equality and justice.

Are Women Persons?

ONE of the so-called arguments against the Equal Rights Amendment that will doubtless be heard in the course of the national political conventions in Chicago is that the Amendment constitutes "blanket" legislation and is therefore shot through with danger. Just what this danger may be it is difficult to apprehend unless the Constitution of the United States is also to be condemned as embodying "blanket" legislation.

For example: Article XIV, Section 1, of Amendments to the Constitution reads: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty or property, without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

The Fourteenth Amendment is beyond question "blanket" legislation since it sets up certain general principles which must be observed by courts and law-making assemblies in their interpretation and enactment of legislation. When the Fourteenth Amendment was first adopted it created, and was intended to create, precisely the kind of danger that the opposition now fears in connection with the Equal Rights Amendment. It placed squarely before the courts the question of whether the laws already on the statute books discriminated against negro men. If the law did so discriminate, as in the West Virginia statute which confined jury service to white men, then the law was held to be unconstitutional and had to be rewritten on a basis of equality. In other words, the purpose of the Fourteenth Amendment was to guarantee Equal Rights to all male persons throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction. American men rightly regard this Amendment as the rock upon which all of their other liberties are founded.

The purpose of the Equal Rights Amendment is merely to extend the protection of the Fourteenth Amendment to American women who are now denied its guarantees.

From the time of the Magna Charta onwards Anglo-Saxon men have utilized "blanket" legislation to insure their liberties. Seven hundred years of experience have proven that the opposition's attitude toward this type of legislation is wrong. If women are "persons," they deserve the protection of the Fourteenth Amendment; if they are not "persons," then in Heaven's name, what are they?

The Woman's Party at the Chicago Conventions

THE Republican National Convention opens in Chicago on June 14. The Democratic National Convention opens in Chicago on June 27. The Congress Hotel will be headquarters for delegates to both conventions.

The National Woman's Party will open headquarters in The Congress on June 12, to work for Equal Rights planks in both political party platforms.

Besides speaking for the proposed plank embodying the Equal Rights Amendment, Woman's Party speakers will appear before the Resolutions Committee on behalf of complete equality in nationality. They will further ask that the President of the United States be urged to invite the nations of the world to enter into an Equal Rights treaty; and that until this is done, every international agreement, every international association, every support of any international bodies contemplated by the United States Government shall be carried through only with the condition that equality between men and women be safeguarded.

A committee from national headquarters will be in Chicago for the convention campaign. Headed by Muna Lee, Director of National Activities, the committee will include Mrs. Max Rotter, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin Vice-Chairman, under whose leadership Wisconsin adopted the most comprehensive State Equal Rights law of the country; Mrs. Leo P. Harlow, of Virginia, editor of *The Carillon;* Rebekah Greathouse, of New Jersey, Chairman of the Lawyers Council of the Woman's Party and Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia; Iris Calderhead Walker, of New York, Chairman of the Woman's Party Campaign for an Equality Reservation to United States Entrance to the World Court; and Mary Dean Powell, of Washington, who has been prominently identified with the international work of the Party, and was one of those who attended the first Conference of the Inter American Commission of Women in Havana.

Other members who will join the committee in Chicago are Julia Landers, of Indianapolis, who will speak for the Equal Rights Amendment before the Democratic Resolutions Committee; Vera Fowler Lewis and Helen Sherry, of Maryland, and a distinguished Chicago group, including Mrs. Edwin Lobdell, Zonia Baber, Mary Caroline Taylor, Bertha Moller Delin, Dr. Dora Hendrickson, and Mrs. Herman E. Lammers. Betsy H. Ashmore of Colorado Springs and Clara Rotter of Milwaukee will head a group of girls who will have charge of the Woman's Party's Bureau of Information.

Among the duly elected convention delegates and national committee members of both parties are several members of the National Woman's Party. Mrs. Marguerite Dugan Bodziak, for instance, of Delaware, long active in Woman's Party work, is a newly elected Democratic National Committeewoman. Dr. Martha Robert de Romeu, of Puerto Rico, another Woman's Party campaigner, is both Republican National Committeewoman for Puerto Rico and Puerto Rican delegate to the Republican convention. Mrs. M. J. Dewitt, of Richmond, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee of the Virginia Branch of the Woman's Party, is alternate-at-large from Virginia to the Republican National Convention. All of the women delegates from Maryland to the Republican Convention including the National Committeewoman, Jane Scott Gabriel, have done yeoman's service for Equal Rights. Lula E. Powell, Chairman of the Federation of Republican Women of Maryland, Grace Hartnett and Mrs. John Holmes, all members of the Maryland Branch of the National Woman's Party, are delegates to the convention. And so it goes.

Do You Know—?

DO you know that in 1848 the first Equal Rights Convention ever held in this country passed the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the women of this country ought to be enlightened in regard to the laws under the which they live, that they may no longer publish their degradation by declaring themselves satisfied with their present position, nor their ignorance, by asserting that they have all the rights they want" — (Resolution passed at Seneca Falls, N. Y., Convention, 1848.)

Do you know that this applies to some women even today?

Do you know that there is not a single state in the Union where men and women live under equal protection of the laws?

Do you believe that the right to vote put women on an absolutely equal plane with men? Do you know that in Oklahoma women are barred from holding any of the higher elective offices by law? Do you know that before Mrs. Ferguson was inducted into office as the first woman Governor of Texas, she petitioned the court to set aside her "legal disabilities as a married woman," in order that contracts entered into by her on behalf of the State might not be questioned?

Do you know what the legal phrase "Disabilities of a married woman" means? That in many States it means married women, in the same way as criminals, children, and the insane, are limited in their right to contract? That this classes large groups of women as legally and financially irresponsible and handicaps them in the legitimate transaction of their business?

DO YOU KNOW THAT A WOMAN DOES NOT HAVE:

- Equal opportunities with men in schools and universities
- Equal citizenship rights
- Equal pay for equal work
- Equal control of her property
- Equal control of her earnings
- Equal inheritance rights
- Equal opportunities in government service
- Equal opportunities in professions and industries
- Equal right to make contracts
- Equal control of national, state and local government
- Equal rights after marriage to her own identity
- Equal control of her children?

Do you know that because of these disabilities courts have referred to the "Dangers of a married woman's paper"? Do you know how married women's property rights are restricted? That in Florida the husband can manage and control his wife's separate property? That in Louisiana while both spouses live, only the husband is privileged to manage and dispose of the husband's and wife's joint property? That in Michigan though the wife paid for property held jointly by husband and wife, the husband has the sole right to the rents and profits? That in South Carolina and Michigan even a woman's clothes are held to be the property of her husband? Do you know that the wife's earnings may be the husband's property? That in Georgia the records are full of cases where the husband has availed himself of his right to his wife's earnings? That in New York State the earnings of a wife secured from labor under her husband's roof from sewing, nursing or keeping boarders, in the absence of a written contract, belong to her husband?

Do you know how inheritance laws discriminate against women? That in New Mexico and Nevada all property acquired after marriage by the industry of hus-

band or wife is their joint property, of which the husband on his death may leave his half to whom he pleases, while the wife, unless she outlives her husband, may not leave her half to anyone but the husband, not even her children? That in Arkansas, West Virginia, and other States, the father inherits to the exclusion of the mother when their child dies without a will and leaves no descendants?

Do you know we have a double legal standard of morals? That according to the United States Interdepartmental Social Hygiene Board less than 15 States define prostitution as an act of the male as well as the female? That in many States, as Michigan and New York, women are punished, while men go free? That in Minnesota the husband has the legal right to the chastity of his wife, whereas the wife has not the same right to the chastity of her husband? That in Texas a husband may divorce his wife for a single act of infidelity, but a wife cannot divorce her husband unless he has abandoned her and is living in a state of infidelity?

Do you know how insecure are the rights of mothers to their children? That the father is the sole natural guardian of minor children in Alabama, Rhode Island and several other States? That in Georgia it is legally possible for the father to will away the custody of his children from the mother? That Michigan, New York and Massachuse[illegible] are among the States where the [illegible]r alone is entitled to the services and e[illegible]rnings of the children?

Do you know that the burden of illegitimate parenthood rests upon the mother? That in many States, as Idaho, Virginia, and Texas, there are no laws by which the unmarried mother may demand aid from the father for the support of the child?

Do you know that in more than half the States women are denied the right to serve on juries? That among these States are Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Carolina, New York, Oklahoma, Wyoming?

Do you realize that these are but a fraction of the existing discriminations against women? That women cannot hold public office or positions on the same terms as men? That women are denied equal citizenship rights? That women are barred from some of the leading schools, colleges and universities? That in many States and in some parts of New York State women teachers are prohibited from taking competitive examinations for teaching positions and also may be dismissed for marrying? That under the guise of "protection," 48-hour and other laws have passed restricting the hours of women in industry, but not of men, which handicap wage-earning women and prevent them from competing on equal terms with men in earning their livelihood?

Do you realize that laws are made not for the best of us, but for the worst of us, and that whenever and wherever the law discriminates there is always some one ready to take advantage of it? Do you realize that these discriminations are not merely humiliation but bitter reality to many women? Do you realize that we owe a debt to the early pioneers in the struggle for the emancipation and enfranchisement of women to finish the work they started?

Is there an answer, a way out of this barbaric tangle? Yes, a civilized answer and a practical way: the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution.

The Hearing on the Linthicum Resolution

IN LAST week's issue of EQUAL RIGHTS it was our privilege to reproduce excerpts from the official minutes of the hearing before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, held on May 13, to consider the demand of the Woman's Party that if the United States contributes $50,000 to the World Court, as the Linthicum Resolution provides, it shall do so on consideration that the code of law to be administered by the Court shall contain no inequalities based on sex. On account of the length of the hearing, the minutes were divided into three sections, to appear in the June 4, 11 and 18 issues of EQUAL RIGHTS. The second section of the minutes is presented herewith, the third and final section will appear next week:

Mrs. Matthews. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, The Hague Nationality Convention recognizing one rule for men and another for women has been widely hailed by the League of Nations as the first step in the project of the League for a world code of law to be administered by the World Court.

A world code of law should express the highest ideals. It should be based on equity and equality, not inequality. The Hague Nationality Convention, however, which is the cornerstone for the world code, clearly imposes upon women an inferior position.

The convention penalizes a woman for marrying a foreigner but does not penalize a man for marrying a foreigner. A woman marries a man of another country. This convention approves of her country depriving her of her own nationality without her consent and even against her will, provided the foreign country of her husband takes her on as a citizen. It is an arbitrary method of thrusting upon a woman the nationality of a foreign country for which she may have no attachment. Thus it is that the convention refuses to treat a woman as a person in her own right.

The articles of the nationality convention dealing particularly with women are articles 8, 9, 10, and 11. Article 8 provides that if the national law of the wife causes her to lose her nationality on marriage with a foreigner, this consequence shall be conditional on her acquiring the nationality of the husband. This article gives recognition to the right of a government to withdraw its nationality from a woman if the country of her husband imposes his nationality on her. In other words, the convention permits a country to throw out its own women provided some foreign country will take them. It thrusts upon a woman without her consent allegiance to a foreign country. It is still the foreign country that is the husband's country, the law of which governs what will happen to her nationality. It leaves the woman without a voice in the all-important matter of her nationality.

It has been said that because this convention aims to prevent statelessness among women, that we should approve it. Women are not asking to be given some state. We want our own country. We will not stand for being thrown about from one country to another without our consent. How much comfort would any of you gentlemen get out of the prevention of statelessness if instead of being given the United States you were allowed to be a national of an oriental state which you considered less civilized?

Article 9 of the convention declares that if the national law of the wife causes her to lose her nationality upon a change in the nationality of her husband occurring during marriage, this consequence shall be conditional on her acquiring her husband's new nationality. So we see that in so far as a woman is concerned, nationality is to be put on and to be put off like a dress. It depends not upon her own volition but upon the status of her husband.

It has also been said that the women of the United States will not be affected by the nationality convention; that only the women of the countries ratifying the convention will be affected. But is that true? Let us say that a woman citizen of the United States marries a national of a foreign country which thrusts upon her the nationality of her husband, and that the foreign country has ratified the nationality convention. Now, you will easily see that by the law of the United States the woman is a citizen of the United States, but by the law of her husband's country she is a citizen of that foreign country, and thus she has a dual nationality. Now, there is nothing whatsoever in this nationality convention which

would remedy that situation, nothing at all. Such a situation can never arise in the case of a man. He can not become a dual by marriage.

Mr. Hull. What has that to do in relation to an appropriation to bear our share in the cost of the World Court?

Mrs. Matthews. It has this to do with it. We do not feel that the women of this country ought to be taxed to support a World Court which is going to be used as an instrument for imposing upon women discriminations.

The Chairman. Do not these women when they marry foreigners go with their eyes open and know the laws of the country?

Mrs. Matthews. Some do and some do not. I do not think that is a question that is at all pertinent here. This country and every country should have nationality laws based upon the principle of equality and treat its citizens alike before the law. There is no justice in taking women's citizenship away when they marry foreigners. A man's citizenship is not taken away from him because he marries a foreign woman.

Mr. West. We agree with all that. We are in entire sympathy with that point of view and personally I am very much in sympathy with the point of view that you expressed with reference to the building up of a code of international law that will adequately safeguard this equality, but is this code in effect now?

Mrs. Matthews. This Hague Nationality Convention will be in effect when 10 countries have ratified it. A project of the League of Nations, as I have said, is to establish a world code and the nationality convention is the first step in the launching of this world code.

Mr. West. But it is not in effect now?

Mrs. Matthews. It is not in effect now.

Mr. West. Is it likely to be in the next year?

Mrs. Matthews. Women all over the world, as previous speakers have told you, have been trying to prevent the ratification of The Hague Nationality Convention. Our women will continue the battle. In view of the economic situation, I do not know that so many women will be able to continue the fight on a world-wide front.

Mr. West. The testimony was that you were quite successful in that regarding those three that had ratified the code and the movement to withdraw.

Mrs. Matthews. Yes. But I do not think the women of any country should be forced to continually spend their money, effort, time, and energy upon preventing discrimination against them. Moreover, the League of Nations has a very powerful set-up and whenever women have undertaken to promote the equality viewpoint, the League has done its utmost to obstruct them. The League is pressing even now for ratifications.

Mr. West. Does your organization present that as an amendment to this resolution? That is the point we are interested in. Mr. Hull has very properly pointed out that this resolution merely provides for authorization for one year of our expenses in the World Court. It is not an adherence to the protocol. There is no treaty relationship involved.

Mrs. Matthews. We understand that.

Mr. West. While your proposal is predicated upon the idea that by your amendment you change international law to safeguard the equality of women, whereas this has nothing to do with any treaty relationship nor could in any way affect the treaty status that exists now.

The Chairman. And further, if this code is adopted, we could then put an amendment into our law by which it would be effected.

Mr. West. Yes, indeed; but the other lady said this is being slipped over on us and made the supreme law of the land by treaty. That is not, to my mind, quite accurate because the treaty would have to be submitted to the Senate and the Senate vote would be the one that would make the treaty the law of the land, and there is where the issue would come up.

Mr. Fish. I will point out something that happened here several years ago, for the new members of the committee. This committee reported by unanimous vote in 1930 and it passed the House of Representatives—I do not think it went to the Senate—a resolution that it is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States of America that there should be absolute equality for both sexes in nationality, and that in the treaty, law, and practices of the United States relating to nationality, there should be no distinction based on sex.

Now, this group of women here naturally want to take the only opportunity they can get to put on a proviso before we enter into the World Court, because after we have entered into it they fear the difficulties.

Mr. West. We are not entering the World Court.

Mr. Fish. We virtually do by appropriating money, participate in it, and they find this is their only opportunity.

The Chairman. But the appropriation will be a matter of each and every year, and if the code is adopted and approved by the Senate, would not that be time enough to put in a provision?

Mr. Fish. Certainly, when you want to accomplish something you start in the beginning, not after you have once gone in and made your commitments. [Applause.]

The Chairman. It seems to me the beginning was in the Senate.

Mr. Crail. Would not the favorable action of this committee on this resolution be heralded throughout the world as our sanction and approval of the World Court.

Mrs. Matthews. Yes; I think so. The countries of the world already in the World Court are very anxious to have the United States come in. There is no time so opportune as the present moment to have our amendment tacked on, because now is the easiest time for the League of Nations to halt in its campaign to put over a nationality convention discriminating against women. The convention has been ratified by only three countries and it would be a simple matter to discourage further ratifications. Now is really the time to accomplish our purpose.

Mr. Maas. Do you not think it would have a very healthy effect on other nations and peoples of the world if we should adopt this amendment, even though we should not report out the bill itself, but have that news go out to the world that this committee goes on record in favor of this equality?

Mrs. Matthews. Yes.

Mr. Maas. And it would accomplish practically the effect you wanted?

Mrs. Matthews. It would be very helpful.

Mr. Maas. This committee by appropriating money can not put us in the World Court. It would have a moral effect but it would not have any binding effect on the court itself.

Mrs. Matthews. I thought you said would it do good to favorably act on this amendment even though the committee did not report favorably on the resolution.

Mr. Maas. It would be serving notice on the world as to the attitude of this committee.

Mrs. Matthews. I think it would be helpful.

To go on with my statement, Article 11 of the Nationality Convention might be called the first international law on widows. It is silent on widowers. Why?

The Chairman. It should be.

Mrs. Matthews. It is silent since no man loses his nationality because of marriage. Therefore, no problem of recovery arises as to him. What does this convention do for widows? If upon the dissolution of the marriage, the law of her native country permits her to recover her premarriage nationality she may do so. The original wrong done her by the State, that is taking her nationality away from her, is not undone by the State. She must affirmatively take steps to reinstate herself. Of course, it might happen that she might need the protection of her government at a time when it could not be given her. For example, a woman has become a national of another country by marriage. Her husband dies while the country, the nationality of which she acquired by marriage, is at war with her native country. She might be suspected and despised and mistreated by the country for which she had never acquired any

attachment, but being an enemy alien of her native country, she would not be entitled to repatriation.

Finally, I would like to say that codification of the international law was intended to be done in a progressive spirit. But in so far as women are concerned, the Nationality Convention is a backward step. It would crystallize into international law a subordinate position for women. It may be presumed that a world code would last for centuries. There are countries totaling one-half of the population of the world which do not force a foreign husband's nationality upon a woman. The code should take the position of progress as represented by the laws of these countries rather than base itself on those countries whose laws take a backward position. We must insist that a woman have all the freedom of choice in nationality which a man has. Nationality is a thing of the spirit, and the love of women for their country should be recognized and respected. To establish one law for women and another for men is a reflection upon women everywhere.

Mr. West. Do you regard this resolution as adherence to the court?

Mrs. Matthews. I do not.

Mr. West. Mr. Crail stated that the world would regard this as approval. It is regarded as approval. The distinction should be made between approval and treaty adherence.

Mr. Crail. I will say that it would be virtually believed around the world to be approval by Congress.

Mr. West. But not adherence.

Mr. Crail. A representation of approval of American adherence to it.

Mr. West. But not adherence.

Mr. Crail. I know the difference.

Mr. Martin. A difference without a distinction.

The Chairman. For your information I asked one of the ladies whether if we adopted this amendment to our bill we would get their support for this resolution and I was told no, it would not; that we would not have their opposition.

Mr. Fish. They would not oppose it. There are a great many more witnesses and we are in a very embarrassing situation here. I understand the Army appropriation bill is under the five-minute rule in the House.

The Chairman. How many more witnesses?

Mrs. Pell. I have six more.

Mr. Cole. I will ask one question of Mrs. Pell. Do I understand that the women of America are united in favor of the Fish resolution, or are there divisions among the women of this country?

Mrs. Pell. I speak only for the National Woman's Party.

The Chairman. That is a timely question. I have here this note to me:

Dear Mr. Linthicum: Representatives of the following organizations are here and wish to state their opposition to the Fish amendment: The American Federation of Labor, the National Council of Jewish Women, the National Board of the Y. W. C. A., the National League of Women Voters, the National Women's Trade Unions League.

They are asking to be heard.

Mr. Cole. You mean to inform me that all those organizations are opposed to the Fish resolution?

The Chairman. Yes.

Miss Ruth Hale. I do not question the document but I should like to know if the American Federation of Labor and the Jewish Council have met overnight.

The Chairman. I guess they have not. This note is from Mrs. Winslow, of the Women's Trade Union.

Miss Hale. It is a very extraordinary thing to have at the last minute hastily gotten together when there have been no conventions.

The Chairman. I am only introducing this note as written by Mrs. Winslow, which was handed me a moment ago.

Mrs. Pell. One lady has to leave, Mrs. Lillian Dame Morey, of Maryland, former chairman of legislation of the Montgomery County Federation of Women's Clubs, and former president of the Montgomery County League of Women Voters.

Mrs. Morey. During the past week this proposed appropriation of $53,000 has been much discussed among the women in my part of Maryland. It has not come before the League of Women Voters or the Federation of Women's Clubs. There has not been time for action. The resolution comes closely on the reports of the discriminations against women in the nationality convention which has been suggested as the first chapter of the proposed world code to be administered by the World Court. It comes to us as a shock that the court is to apply a code discriminating against women, as women have been truly the best friends of the World Court and of the League of Nations. We rebel against having money appropriated to the World Court if it is to administer a code of law unjust to women.

Mrs. Pell. Miss Ruth Hale, of New York, is the next speaker. She is a writer and critic, and chairman of the Journalists' Council of the National Woman's Party. Also, she is founder of the Lucy Stone League.

Miss Hale. The last note sounded at the previous hearing on this resolution was, I understand, that the nationality convention is really a great boon to women; that note was sounded by Manley O. Hudson, a gentleman who appeared, representing himself. Mr. Hudson is not in accord with our recorded position as a nation on the nationality convention, which he says is a boon to us. To begin with, here is an extract from the statement made by Mr. David Hunter Miller, who was our chief delegate at The Hague conference:

Any acceptance by the United States of the convention as a whole would invoke such extensive reservations to the agreement that the present view of my Government is that it would be better to await a future and more progressive moment. Accordingly the delegation of the United States of America at this conference will not sign the general nationality convention.

Was Mr. Miller wrong and Mr. Hudson right?

Then there was a press release by the State Department on April 15, 1930, concerning The Hague conference, saying:

The convention adopted (on nationality) did not meet the views of our delegates in that it was contrary to two principle which are firmly embedded in our law. First, we have always insisted on the complete right of a citizen of any state to expatriate himself and become a citizen of a second state on compliance with its laws (that is not the usual view of all nations); and second, we do not in our laws make differences—or make few or relatively unimportant differences, as to the rights of men and women in matters of nationality. . . .

The steps taken by our delegates have had the approval of this department.

Was the State Department wrong and Mr. Hudson right?

Then there is this extract from the Secretary of State's reply to the League of Nations on June 23, 1931:

It is regretted that, because of the unsatisfactory provisions on two important points—expatriation and the nationality of married women—the Government of the United States was unable to sign the convention on nationality, the principal agreement concluded at that conference.

Was the Secretary of State wrong and Mr. Hudson right?

Now, Mr. Chairman, that is just one nationality convention and all that we have got up to now in the way of a vestigial world code.

The Chairman. There have not been but three signers to it.

Miss Hale. They had only one protest at the time and that was the protest of the United States. Now, we have explained the record. Let us not get confused on the World Court. Let us not pin a rose on this court if it is to apply laws unfair to women. We are sure that we can carry along in all our work that conviction which we have and which has been expressed by the President, by the House, and by the State Department, namely, that The Hague nationality convention does not safeguard the independence and freedom of women.

The Chairman. I do not want you ladies and gentlemen to think that I am opposed to your amendment. I think the principle of it is very good; all right. But I will say this to Mr. West. This is what I have been contending. If you put this amendment on an appropriation bill, then we are not agreeing with the treaty as reported by the Senate. In fact, we are amending the treaty reported to the

Senate and which the Senate is supposed to have full charge of.

Mr. West. You are quite right.

The Chairman. That is, the House taking a part in treaty matters.

Mr. West. That is our problem. We are really in full sympathy, many of us on this committee, with the purpose of this citizenship proposition. I personally, am in full accord with everything that has been said here, but I can not say as to the problem facing us as a committee.

Miss Elsie Hill. This is not a treaty question. The problem here is simply one of an appropriation and suitable protection of our rights. We do not wish to see women taxed to support and finance an institution planned and pushed by the League of Nations scheduled to operate against the women of the world. The principle of inequality in the matter of nationality is the cornerstone of the proposed world code to be administered by the World Court. [Applause.]

Senator Nye Introduces the Equality Reservation

THE answer of the National Woman's Party to the vote in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee which by a narrow margin rejected the equality reservation to United States entrance to the World Court, was the introduction of the equality reservation on the Senate floor on the afternoon of May 27. The equality reservation was introduced on the floor by Senator Gerald P. Nye, of North Dakota, who introduced the Equal Rights Amendment in the Senate on June 4, 1929.

"The equality reservation safeguards the rights of women," explained Iris Calderhead Walker, who has been directing the reservation campaign. "It provides that in the event the United States adheres to the Statute of the World Court, it shall make the following reservation: that the code of law to be administered by the World Court shall not contain inequalities, based on sex."

The complete text of the resolution as introduced by Senator Nye reads:

WHEREAS the United States Government refused to be a party to the nationality convention adopted by the First Conference for the Codification of International Law, held under the auspices of the League of Nations at The Hague 1930, one of the grounds of its refusal being that this convention was not based on equality between men and women in nationality rights, for which equality this Government stands, and

WHEREAS, the Department of State has three times officially stated its disapproval of this convention; first, through the chief delegate to The Hague Conference, second, through the State Department's press release of April 15, 1930, third, in the Secretary of State's letter of June 23, 1931, to the Secretary-General of the League; and

WHEREAS, this projected nationality convention, when ratified by ten countries will form a part of a code of law to be administered by the World Court, and

WHEREAS, American women have joined with the women of the world in demanding from the League the submission of a new convention based on equality; and

WHEREAS, the League of Nations has so far opposed all efforts by women to secure submission of a new convention; and are, instead, pressing for ratifications of the projected, unfair nationality convention; and

WHEREAS, the rights of American women and the American standard of equality will be endangered if the code of law to be established for the Court to apply, has injustice as its cornerstone; therefore be it

Resolved, That in the event the United States adheres to the Court, it shall make the following reservation:

> Provided that the code of law to be administered by the World Court, shall not contain inequalities based on sex.

Press Comment

Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont Now Better

New York Herald, Paris Edition, May 14, 1932.

MRS. OLIVER H. P. BELMONT, president of the Woman's Party, noted for her humanitarian work, was showing fair progress yesterday after a paralytic stroke which she suffered Tuesday night during her sleep at her home at 9 rue Monsieur.

Dr. Edmund L. Gros, Mrs. Belmont's physician, stated yesterday that the stroke was due to a blocking of the cerebral centers and had begun with a gradual paralysis of the right side, and with a slight degree of aphasia, probably due to the shock. Yesterday, however, Mrs. Belmont had recovered her speech, was fully conscious and seemed to be holding her own.

Mrs. Belmont's daughter, Mrs. Jacques Balsan, the former Consuelo Vanderbilt, later Duchess of Marlborough, with Colonel Balsan and Mrs. Belmont's grandson, William K. Vanderbilt, Jr., have been at her bedside continually for the past two days. Her two sons, William K. Vanderbilt and Harold S. Vanderbilt, have cabled that they are sailing from New York today aboard the Majestic, arriving in Paris next Friday to join their mother.

"Mrs. Belmont is very courageous," said Dr. Gros. "Naturally, as she is nearing her 80th year, there is some danger of heart weakness or pulmonary complications."

Several of the nurses from the American Hospital in Neuilly volunteered their services immediately upon hearing of Mrs. Belmont's illness, begging to be allowed to care for one who has showed them such kindness in the past. Some of these nurses had been guests at the little house Mrs. Belmont had put at their disposal for "rest cures," at her country estate near Fontainebleau, the Domaine d'Augerville-la-Riviere.

"Messages of sympathy and love have been received from all over France and America, as Mrs. Belmont has been a devoted friend to working girls, and has never failed to help them when they turned to her for solace or encouragement," Dr. Gros stated.

As president of the Woman's Party, Mrs. Belmont has been working recently for the favorable consideration of the "Equal Rights for women" reservation of the World Court resolution, and has been directing the efforts of the women delegates from America and other countries to gain equal nationality rights.

In spite of her age, Mrs. Belmont has been extremely active in this work, and the interruption caused by her illness will be a great blow to the Woman's Party.

Tribune, Peru, Indiana, May 26, 1932.

"DEPRESSION DIVORCES" are no joke. The idea may sound like a funny newspaper story, but 30 or 40 women in the Government service actually have visited the National Woman's Party headquarters in the last two or three weeks and declared their intention of getting legal separations from their husbands in case Congress provided its economy measure that when husband and wife work for the Government one of them will be first considered for dismissal when employes must be fired. The theory is that a separation contract would exempt them.

The Woman's Party recently boycotted a railroad which began to fire married women from its clerical force as a matter of policy, after showering its president with telegrams from members over the country. A competing road hastened to assure the girls that it would adopt no such policy, and meanwhile would be glad to get their business.

Dominican President Advocates Equal Rights

Excerpts From a Speech by the President of the Dominican Republic, General Rafael L. Trujillo, at the Athenaeum in Santo Domingo, May 15, 1932

* * * * * I want to take advantage of this happy opportunity to make from this rostrum a statement concerning our political and social evolution.

I, who have followed with satisfaction the cultural development of our young women, enjoying the reading of their poetry and of those charming pages of prose in which they set forth their ideology, believe that such fruit of feminine talent, in this period of our Republic, is illuminating evidence of how Dominican women are lending their efforts to the communal cultural task. Living proofs of the noble efforts of our feminine youth are Abigail Mejía de Fernández, who finds for her novels subjects from human reality, into which she injects animation and descriptive grace; Josefa Sánchez de González, fine feminine character, who with equal skill directs a college class, plays music, or writes inspiring poetry; Amada Nivar Pittaluga, talented poet, well known for the tenderness and sincerity of her composition; Martha María Lamarche, equally distinguished as poet; Margarita Peynado and Milady Feliz, members of the bar; Delia Weber de Coiscou, author of delicate imaginative compositions oriental in flavor; Rhina Espaillat, specialist in local color; María Josefa Gómez, teacher, crowned writer, and lecturer, presiding genius of "Salcedo"; and such others as Melania Thevenin, Carmen Lara Fernández, Rosita Tavárez, Dolores Bobadilla, Ligía Veloz, all of whom show real promise in the field of letters.

And what shall we say of those superior women who exercise their talents in teaching or other realms of social life?

Consideration of these praiseworthy efforts on the part of Dominican women, precisely at a time when a feminist movement is beginning in this country, places upon me the necessity of devising means of helping this movement, which came into being in the latter part of the past century, although its genesis was in the French Revolution, under the influence of Condorcet and other philosophers, and which is today one of the most beautiful orientations of the feeling of human liberty.

We enjoy in the Dominican Republic a democracy, which has never shown a stronger and more liberal character; a democracy which must go beyond the limits hitherto set to the development of women, here as in many other countries, by men always pursuing their own special interests.

I favor this movement of social justice for women. I believe the time is ripe to begin considering the need of granting women the right of citizenship.

Dominican society would profit if our women brought to the civic arena their refinement and their strength. Suffrage would undoubtedly gain in constructive efficiency.

In municipal struggles and in affairs of state, our women will put at the service of the people ideas and feelings of social conservation which they do not bring now, but which they will bring when they have political and civic personality.

May this declaration, which for the first time in this country occupies the mind of the head of the State, be a proof of my profound devotion to the exercise of human liberty.

News from the Field

To Conduct Institute

GAIL LAUGHLIN of Maine, attorney-at-law and national vice-chairman of the Woman's Party, will conduct a two-day conference on the Regulation of Women's Work by Law at the Institute of Public Affairs of the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, on July 6 and 7. Miss Laughlin is one of the most eloquent speakers of our day, and no one who was privileged to hear her at the Biennial convention dinner of the Woman's Party last December will forget how she brought a crowded room spontaneously to its feet in vigorous applause.

Gail Laughlin is a former member of the Maine Legislature, a former president of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women, and is author of the law making women eligible for jury service in California. These are only a few of her distinctions; while her contribution to Feminism goes far beyond them all as an influence and an inspiration which has helped give momentum and direction to the whole movement for Equal Rights.

The Institute of Public Affairs is to be congratulated on having Miss Laughlin lead its conference; and every woman who can do so—whatever her belief regarding industrial equality—should plan to attend what will be, unquestionably, an illuminating and dynamic session.

Endorse Equal Rights Amendment

THE Los Angeles Business and Professional Women's Club, Jane C. Humphreys, president, endorsed the Lucretia Mott Equal Rights Amendment at its May, 1932, meeting.

The Altrusa Club of Los Angeles, Edith Walker, president, recently endorsed the Equal Rights Amendment.

The Los Angeles Teachers' Club, Kathleen Stevens, president, with over 3,000 members, has endorsed the Equal Rights Amendment. The club also endorsed the equality reservation to the World Court, if the United States becomes a member.

Mrs. Valentine Vickery

THE death on May 20 of Mrs. Valentine Vickery, chairman of the National Woman's Party Committee on Petitions and Resolutions, is a great loss to the Equal Rights movement. Mrs. Vickery, although a member of the Woman's Party for about one year only, had directed an active nation-wide campaign resulting in the sending in to the President of the United States of innumerable petitions urging immediate passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. A gifted and charming woman with a broad range of interests, great vitality, and unfailing resourcefulness, enthusiasm, and idealism, Mrs. Vickery contributed greatly in many ways to the Feminist program.

Addresses B. and P. Women

JANE NORMAN SMITH was one of the guests of honor at a luncheon held by the New York State Federation of Business and Professional Women at Larchmont on May 20. Jessie Dell was the principal speaker. Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt was also a guest of honor and spoke briefly.

Dr. Iva Peters spoke on discrimination against women in business, especially with reference to married women, and there was a brief discussion after the luncheon, when a round table was held.

Women Protest Restricted Suffrage

WOMEN in Chile, according to cabled press reports, are protesting against the restricted suffrage offered there by not registering for the July elections. In spite of a votes-for-women campaign, led by Chilean Feminists and sponsored by Señora de Montero, wife of the President of the Republic, women have as yet been granted the right to vote in municipal elections only. Demanding the franchise in national affairs, they refuse to be diverted by municipal voting from their campaign for complete suffrage.

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